Permission to farmers for selling agricultural products in any market

†1250. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has allowed farmers to sell their agricultural produce in any market of the country;

(b) if so, whether the farmers of border districts of Madhya Pradesh could sell sugarcane and jaggery in the districts of Maharashtra; and

(c) the reasons for which the farmers of Madhya Pradesh cannot sell their produce in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. For providing better market access opportunities, the Ministry of Agriculture had drafted a Model Act titled "The agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2003" in consultation with the State Governments for amendment of the States APMC Act. The Model Act contains provisions such as removal of compulsion on growers to sell their produce through existing regulated markets, prohibition of commission agency, rationalization of market fees, allowing establishment of direct purchase centers and Farmers Markets for direct sale, enabling any person/grower or local authority to establish new markets in any area, professionalization of management of markets, promotion of Public Private Partnership in management and development of markets, promotion of contract farming etc. Besides this, the Government of India has also amended the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 removing restrictions on the storage and movement of goods and permitted futures trading in number of Agricultural Commodities for better market access opportunities for farmers. As such there is no ban for farmers to sell their agricultural produce in any market of the country under the States APMC Act.

(b) As of date, jaggery has not been notified under the Madhya Pradesh Krishi Upaj Mandi Adhiniyam, 1972 and sugarcane has been exempted from the purview of payment of mandi fee by the State Government. Madhya Pradesh Krishi Upaj Mandi Adhiniyam, 1972 does not provide for imposing restrictions on sale of notified agricultural commodities outside the State or within the State.

(c) Question doesn't arise.

Revised estimate for Jakhau fishery harbour project

1251. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved Jakhau Fishery Harbour Project as 100 per cent centrally sponsored scheme;

(b) whether the initial cost of the project has escalated due to delayed environment clearance thereby raising the amount to Rs. 41.48 lakhs, which is yet to be paid to Government of Gujarat;

(c) if so, whether Government has committed that the enhanced cost could be considered in view of the fact that the original estimates were based on 1990-91 rates;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(d) whether Gujarat Government/has sent the detailed report regarding revised estimated cost; and

(e) if so, the time by which the revised cost will be released to Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Government had in May 1993 accorded approval for construction of fishing harbour at Jakhau at a total cost of Rs. 1143.60 lakhs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 100 percent Central financial assistance.

(b) The State Government has reported that delay in obtaining environmental clearance is one of the reasons among others that have led to cost escalation.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Growth in agriculture sector

1252. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to data released by Central Statistical Organisation, there is modest growth in agriculture and allied services during 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for low growth in the food grains during 2007-08; and

(d) the steps being taken for the growth of agriculture sector for the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) According to the data released by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), growth rate of agriculture & allied sectors during 2007-08 at constant (1999-2000) prices was 4.5 per cent.

(c) Total foodgrains increased to 230.67 million tonnes in 2007-08 from 217.25 million tonnes in 2006-07 recording a growth of 6.16 per cent.

(d) Towards improving the growth in the agriculture sector, Government has taken the following steps:

- Launched the National Food Security Mission with an outlay of Rs.4,882 crore for the Eleventh Plan period (2007-08 to 2011-12). It aims to produce additional 10 million tonnes of rice, 8 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of pulses by the end of the Eleventh Plan.
- Launched the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), with an outlay of Rs.25.000 crore for the 11th Plan period which aims at achieving 4% annual growth in the agriculture sector during the Plan period, through incentivising the States to invest more in agriculture sector.

Decline in the agricultural area

†1253. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: